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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 10 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a text entitled "Declaration of the Islamic State of Afghanistan", dated 5 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

The Islamic State of Afghanistan,

Having considered, during a joint high-level special meeting with commanders, dignitaries and elders from across the country, the current situation in Afghanistan,

Intending, to establish a consultative council and a joint decision-making body to be called the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a body which shall be presided over by the President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and which shall study and decide, as the highest decision-making authority and the central body of State policy initiation, implementation and coordination, on matters related to State affairs, embodying, to the extent possible, Jihadi and national figures and technocrats,

1. Expresses its determination to take appropriate measures aimed at resolving the present conflict, in conformity with the prevailing facts and realities in the country;

2. Decides to appropriately restructure the executive and judicial branches of the State within the parameters of the organization of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and to establish the legislative branch by duly considering the participation of the representatives of fraternal ethnic groups of the nation, scholars, national and prominent figures;

3. Calls for the creation of a vast political front comprised of devout and patriotic popular figures and political and cultural forums, based upon the principle of grass-roots national participation; the front will deploy collective efforts for resolution of the conflict through convening an all-encompassing national gathering on a political front, and by extending mutual support and cooperation with a view to preserving and consolidating the national unity and the Islamic identity of Afghanistan;

4. Recognizes the fact that the will of the people constitutes the basis of legitimacy and political authority, and bearing such conviction, respects and supports any endeavours promoted by the representatives of people aimed at ending the conflict, restoring peace, and safeguarding the national unity, sovereignty and political independence of Afghanistan;

5. Deplores the protracted conflict in the country imposed and fuelled by foreign conspiracies, expresses its disbelief in a military solution of the conflict, reiterates its conviction in the promoting of genuine and sincere intra-Afghan dialogue as the only way out of the turmoil, and calls upon the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and peace-loving countries to lend the Afghans every support;

6. Decides to strive for attaining and salvaging the ideals of the Afghan people, and to resolutely defend the national unity, political independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic State of Afghanistan should the Taliban and their foreign sponsors continue to reject a peaceful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan;

7. Condemns, strongly, Pakistani interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and reiterates calls on the Pakistani leadership to stop supporting the Taliban group and to sincerely cooperate for a peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict by adopting a realistic approach, in order to avoid exacerbation of the situation in the region with serious implications for that country;

8. Reaffirms its total respect for human rights, women's human rights, combating illicit drugs and fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

9. Condemns, vigorously, Taliban actions in support of terrorism, the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics, the deprivation of people from education, and causing impoverishment of the population, and reiterates that their actions are contrary to the tenets and injunctions of Islam;

10. Condemns, vehemently, mass killings by the Taliban, particularly their cruel massacre of civilian populations in Mazâr-i-Sharif, Bamyân and other Northwestern provinces, and the slaying of Iranian diplomats and United Nations personnel, and requests a prompt international investigation into these incidents and the punishment of those responsible;

11. Regrets the occurrences of earthquakes in different parts of Afghanistan, inflicting heavy loss of lives and material devastation, extends its deep sympathies to the victims of these sad events, and announces its readiness to assist the victims and send supplies to their areas upon the lifting of obstacles by the Taliban;

12. Decides on the dispatch to friendly countries of delegations to explain the position of the Islamic State of Afghanistan toward ways of ending the conflict, restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan, and to procure cooperation of those countries;

13. Extends its gratitude to friendly and Islamic countries for hosting Afghan refugees, and kindly requests their continued humanitarian facilities under provisions of relevant international norms until conditions in Afghanistan permit repatriation of these Afghans.

Kapissâ, Afghanistan
5 March 1999